



File Code: 1950; 2410
Date: November 13, 2015

Dear Interested Party,

The Rifle and Blanco Ranger Districts of the White River National Forest welcomes your comments on our proposal to implement a variety of vegetation management activities and road improvements along the Buford New Castle Road (NFSR 245) and surrounding areas, in Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the Buford/New Castle Project is to manage vegetation along the Buford New Castle Road for a variety of benefits and to enhance user safety along travel corridors.

There is a need to:

- Increase aspen as an overall portion of stand composition in seral stands that are converting to subalpine fir
- Increase forest resiliency by increasing species and age class diversity in aspen and mixed conifer stands
- Daylight the road corridor to facilitate drying and improve sight distance
- Provide a supply of forest products and/or biomass to local industries

Proposed Action

To address the purpose and need, the Forest Service proposes to implement approximately 951 acres of vegetation management activities on National Forest System lands located in Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado. Potential treatment areas have been identified in the vicinity of the Buford New Castle Road (NFSR 245). Vegetation management activities include clearcuts, patch clearcuts, improvement harvests, commercial thinning, shelterwood establishment cuts, group selection and individual tree selection harvests.

For a complete copy of the Notice of Proposed Action, including a detailed description of the purpose and need, proposed action and location maps please visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=47451>. The notice and supporting documentation is also available for review at the Rifle Ranger District. Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Brett Crary, 0094 CR 244, Rifle, CO 81650, (970) 328-5899, bcrary@fs.fed.us.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the *Citizen Telegram*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period.



Written comments must be submitted via mail, fax, electronically, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Sarah Hankens c/o Brett Crary, Forester/Silviculturist, 0094 CR 244, Rifle, CO 81650, FAX: (970) 625-2532. Electronic comments including attachments can be submitted to <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=47451>.

Persons commenting should include: 1) name, address, telephone number, organization represented, if any; 2) title of project for which the comment is being submitted; and 3) specific facts and supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility to file an objection under §218.8. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25(a)(3). Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

The decision I will make is one of the following: whether to implement the proposed activities on National Forest lands as described or to modify the proposed location or design of the project, or to not implement this project at this time.

If you need any further information about the project you may call Brett Crary at 970-328-5899. Thank you for your interest in the management of your public lands. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



SARAH HANKENS
District Ranger